

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 XMB-02 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 /092 R

DRAFTED BY E:RASORENSEN

APPROVED BY E:CWROBINSON

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

EB:LRAICHT

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 046195

R 101834Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJECT: ABDESSELAM QUESTION REGARDING FPC DECISION

REF: ALGIERS 1973

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION RAISED BY ABDESSELAM REGARDING THE FPC POSITION ON EASCOGAS AND DISTRIGAS CONTRACTS, OUR INFORMATION IS THAT DISTRIGAS HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR SHORT-TERM IMPORTS OF LNG BETWEEN JULY 1, 1975 AND DECEMBER 31, 1977. IT HAS WITHDRAWN ITS APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF LONG-TERM CONTRACT. EASCOGAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS NOT YET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SUBMITTED ITS NEW CONTRACT TO THE FPC. YOU COULD PERHAPS POINT OUT TO ABDESSELAM THAT NO DECISION CAN BE MADE ON EASCOGAS UNTIL FINAL CONTRACT IS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION.

2. ALTHOUGH THE FPC, AS AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY COMMISSION, CANNOT ADMIT IT PUBLICLY, THEY ARE AT PRESENT WAITING FOR ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (ERC) TO DEVELOP A FIRM ADMINISTRATION POLICY WITH REGARD TO LNG IMPORTS. THE ERC HAS SCHEDULED MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT ON SEPTEMBER 15 FOLLOWING WHICH WE HOPE A POLICY WILL BE STATED. THIS POLICY, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL HAVE GENERAL APPLICABILITY AND WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PARTICULAR COUNTRIES. THE FPC'S DECISION ON IMPORTS FROM ALGERIA SPECIFICALLY WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE DETERMINED BY ERC RECOMMENDATION BUT WILL CERTAINLY BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY IT.

3. I THINK THE BEST YOU CAN TELL ABDESSELAM FOR THE TIME BEING IS THAT FPC CONSIDERATION OF THE CONTRACTS ABOUT WHICH HE IS CONCERNED CANNOT PROCEED UNTIL NEW CONTRACTS

SUBMITTED AND THAT FPC DECISION MAY BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERAL POLICY BY USG WITH REGARD TO LNG IMPORTS. I WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE KEPT FULLY INFORMED. FOLLOWING ERC MEETING ON THE 15TH, WE MIGHT BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO GIVE YOU ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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